

# **Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Fact Sheet**

## **Cedar Run Watershed, Fauquier and Prince William Counties**

**What is a TMDL?** Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) is a term used to describe the amount of a pollutant that a stream can receive and still meet Water Quality Standards. A TMDL Study identifies sources of pollution and reductions needed to attain standards. A TMDL Study considers both **point sources**, such as residential, municipal or industrial discharges, and **nonpoint sources**, such as residential, urban or agricultural activities.

**Why is a TMDL being prepared for the Cedar Run Watershed?** The goal of the Clean Water Act is that all streams should be suitable for recreational uses, including swimming and fishing. **Fecal coliform and Escherichia coli (E. coli) bacteria** are used to indicate the presence of pathogens in streams supporting the **swimmable use goal**. Bacteria in Cedar and Licking Runs exceed the fecal coliform criterion. Cedar Run was first listed as impaired in 1996 based on DEQ monitoring indicating that the swimmable use goal was not being met, and was further listed in 1998 and 2002. Licking Run was listed as impaired in 1998 and 2002.

**How often does Virginia list “Impaired Waters”?** Virginia submits a list of impaired waters to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in even-numbered years. A list was not submitted in 2000. Statewide, there were 656 stream segments impaired by one or more pollutants on the 2002 list of impaired waters. A TMDL and Implementation Plan must be developed for each impaired stream segment and pollutant. The 2002 list is available on the DEQ website at <http://www.deq.state.va.us/water/303d.html>.

**What portion of the Cedar Run Watershed is to be addressed in the TMDL Study?** Two segments in the Cedar Run watershed are listed as impaired by fecal coliform bacteria on Virginia’s 2002 list. The first impairment is a 28.32-mile segment of Cedar Run extending from the confluence with Mill Run west of Vowles Mill Road to the confluence with the Occoquan River northeast of Route 619. The second impairment is a 6.58-mile segment of Licking Run extending from the mouth of Germantown Lake northwest of Route 28 to the confluence with Cedar Run southwest of Route 806.

**What happens after the TMDL is completed?** The Cedar Run Watershed TMDL will be submitted to EPA in **Spring 2004**. Upon EPA approval, a **TMDL Implementation Plan** can be developed to bring the impaired streams in the Cedar Run Watershed into compliance with Water Quality Standards. Implementation Plans include a schedule of actions, costs, and monitoring. Implementation Plan development may begin at any time after EPA approval of the TMDL.

**How will the public participate in TMDL development?** Three formal public meetings are planned as part of the TMDL development process. The first meeting was held on July 10, 2003 to inform the public about the impairment and the TMDL process, and to obtain public comment. The **second public meeting** is scheduled for **October 23, 2003** in Nokesville, Virginia, to present the potential sources of bacteria in the watershed. A third and final meeting will be held in early 2004 to present the final TMDL Study, including reduction targets. Additional small meetings can be held with stakeholders, upon request, to ensure the information used in the study is accurate. A draft TMDL will be made available for public

review and comment prior to submittal to EPA. Public meetings will be advertised in local newspapers, through direct mailings, and in the Virginia Register.

**What are the expected benefits of the TMDL and Implementation efforts?** Implementation will work towards restoring the beneficial use of the stream, making it fishable and swimmable in accordance with the goals of the Clean Water Act, and cost-effective management practices will be identified and implemented first.

**What are the roles of DEQ and DCR in developing TMDLs?** TMDL development is a collaborative effort between the Virginia Departments of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and Conservation and Recreation (DCR.) DEQ develops water quality standards, monitors water quality, identifies impaired waters, and develops TMDLs. DCR is Virginia's lead non-point source pollution management agency, helps develop TMDLs, and develops implementation plans. Information on DEQ and DCR programs, including information on TMDLs, may be found at [www.deq.state.va.us](http://www.deq.state.va.us) and [www.dcr.state.va.us](http://www.dcr.state.va.us).

**Whom may I contact to comment on or learn more about the Cedar Run TMDL?** Kate Bennett, Department of Environmental Quality, 13901 Crown Ct., Woodbridge, VA, 22193, telephone (703) 583-3896, fax (703) 583-3841, or e-mail [kebennett@deq.state.va.us](mailto:kebennett@deq.state.va.us).

